book to protect the interests of agricultural and unorganised labour in the country. Government is also considering a Central Legislation to regularise the employment, conditions of service and welfare measures for the agricultural labour.

(b) The Central Board for Workers Education sponsored by the Ministry of Labour has been conducting educational programmes for the workers in the unorganised sector from 1979. Various Labour laws and other related subjects are covered in such training programmes. Some of the State Govenrments/Union Territories have appointed honorary rural organisers under a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to impart knowledge about Labour laws to rural workers.

Conversion of MG line into BG line in the country

873. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKAR DAVE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposal for conversion of several Metre gauge lines into Broad gauge section in the country;

(b) how many of them have been found acceptable;

(c) what are the norms of acceptance; and

(d) whether gandhidham-Bhuj line is likely to be covered in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN: (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Proposals for conversion of Muzaffarpur—Narkatiaganj-Gorakhpur and Allahabad Varanasi have been referred to Planning Commission.

(c) The National Transport Policy Committee (NTPC) in their report submitted in May, 1980 had recommended the following criteria for gauge conevrsion projects :—

(i) when it is discovered that the traffic likely to develop in future cannot be handled on the existing system;

(ii) when the magnitude of transhipment involved is such that it is uneconomical or is not feasible at all, to handle the anticipated volume of traffic;

(iii) when it is needed for providing speedy and uninterrupted means of communication to areas which have potential for growth.

(d) No, Sir.

Biological Alternatives for Chemical Pesticides

874. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether chemical pesticides have been found ineffective against such pests as American Boll Worm;

(b) whether in view of this Government would discourage import and manufacture of highly toxic and costly chemical pesticides and switch over to proven biological alternatives as done in South America and Egypt; and

(c) what are the specific alternatives developed in the country for biological pest control system, and integrated pest management at ICAR institutes, Agricultural University and any Non-Government organisations and private firms ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Some pesticides were found to be ineffetcive in controlling Heliothis pest commonly known as American Bollworm on cotton crop in recent years in some States.

(b) The Registeration Committee under the Insecticides Act. 1968 only registers pesticides on accepted parameters of toxicity persistence and bio-efficacy. At the same time Government are encouraging the use of biological alternatives based on our own research and international experience.

(c) The main alternative developed and implemented by us is Integrated Pest

Management which includes biological control Several predator parasites and pathogens have been identified by our research institutes for use in different crops against specific pests.

Dangers of Pesticides

875. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the special issue of moving Technology brought out by CAPART (April 1990) highlighting the dangers and safe alternatives to pesticides; and

(b) whether Government propose to initiate pragmatic policies and programmes towards sustainable agriculture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes ,Sir.

(b) Government have already initiated policies for implementation of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as part of sustainable agriculture. The IPM approach aims at pest surveillence, need based use of pesticides, and use of cultural, agronomic mechanical and biological control methods in pest management.

Organic Farming

876. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to many success stories of organic farming in the country such as that reported in 'Sunday Mail' 5-11 May, 1991;

(b) whether Government have compiled a list of all organic farming units in the country, private, cooperatives, non-Government organisations and Government units, if any; and

(c) whether any analysis or evaluation has been made of this system which is catching up all over the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c) There have been occasional reports about the success of organic farming system. However, there are no identified organic farming units in Government's knowledge. In view of this, the question of carrying out separate analysis/ evaluation does not arise.

While organic farming has its positive side, the use of chemical fertilizers, pesticides and the use of modern farming techniques, are essential for achieving high levels of yield. However, integrated nutrient supply which combines the use of chemicals and orgainc fertilisers coupled with suitable package of practices, ensures the best results and is encouraged by Government.

News-item under caption "Uncertainty over Metro stretch"

877. PROF. SOURENDRA BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the Statesman, New Delhi, dated the 9th July, 1991, under the caption "Uncertainty over Metro stretch";

(b) whether it is a fact that lack of funds has been prime reason for unresolving the difference between the Metro and its various contractors;

(c) whether Government without getting the Calcutta Metro Railways completed are investing huge funds elsewhere in the country in similar projects; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. Out of a total outlay of Rs. 165 crores made available in 1991-92 by Planning Commission for metropolitan transport project, Rs. 120 crores have been allotted to Calcutta Metro.